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**Saturday, December 8, 2012**



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## Creating a new tradition for Aruba Famed ballet star Leonid Kozlov has made "The Nutcracker" an annual holiday treat

In 2007, a long-time visitor to Aruba decided to make it his second home. Leonid Kozlov, former principal dancer of the Bolshoi and New York City Ballet and star of the Broadway revival of "On Your Toes," with his wife, prima-ballerina Adriana, settled on the island part-time. Their love of dance involved them with the local dance community, bringing sumptuous productions to the island every holiday season.

Leonid has blazed a stellar career in classical ballet, inspiring young dancers around the world.



Leonid defection to the west is the stuff of movie scripts. He dodged a cadre of KGB agents that surrounded Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles in 1979 to achieve creative freedom and forge a new career.

He was immediately invited to star with the Australian Ballet out of Melbourne, where he first staged his production of The Nutcracker. Eventually, he was invited by George Balanchine to become a lead performer with New York City Ballet, and in 1991 opened the Kozlov Dance Studio, where he met his wife, prima ballerina Adriana.

Leonid and Adriana spend the holidays on Aruba, joined by some of the finest dancers in the Tri-State New York area, during which they offer workshops and star in productions. One of the most

beloved holiday traditions in many of the great cities around the world, the staging of "Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky, was performed for the first time in Aruba at the Cas di Cultura in January of 2008.

Leonid and Adriana have dedicated an enormous amount of time and all their professionalism to this project with the hope of encouraging the appreciation of classical dance amongst island youth. Forty young dancers from the Club di Movimiento will be participating in this year's production. They hope island visitors will take advantage of this immortal holiday experience performed with top international stars and the talented Aruban dancers.

**Continue on pg 3**

## UN to reinforce Golan Heights force as Syria troubles mount

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United Nations is strengthening its force monitoring a ceasefire between Syria and Israel because of the growing threat from the Syria conflict, a top UN official said Friday.

UN peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said extra armored cars would be sent to the force in the strategic Golan Heights where tensions have escalated in recent months as the civil war spreads.

The unarmed UN observers say they have been threatened and have also had

to treat Syrian forces following battles with opposition rebels in the demilitarized zone, according to a new report by UN leader Ban Ki-moon.

Four Austrian members of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which has been in the Golan since 1974, were wounded as they drove to Damascus airport last week. Syrian and Israeli forces have repeatedly exchanged fire across the ceasefire line.

Canada pulled its small contingent out of UNDOF in September and other contrib-

utor countries have raised concerns, diplomats said. Austria, Croatia, India, Japan and Philippines provide the 1,000 troops in the force.

The UNDOF countries are to meet next week ahead of the UN Security Council's renewal of the force's mandate.

UN leader Ban has recommended that the force get a six month approval while adding in a new report that UNDOF has drawn up "contingency planning" for a worsening of the Syrian conflict.

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## "Trading Snow to Sand" at the Aruba Marriott



From December 5-8, 2012 five journalists from the US traded snow to sand at the Aruba Marriott Resort. Publications including the New York Resident, Curvy Magazine, Chicago Time out, Parlour Magazine and Times Union visited Aruba to experience what the island has to offer.

The five journalists and Diamond PR rep Lisa Schwartz started the trip off with a sunset dinner at Marriott's beachfront restau-

rant Simply Fish. On Thursday the group geared up for an adventurous jeep tour with De Palm Tours visiting Aruba's famous sights including the Natural Pool. In the late afternoon they set sail with Red Sail Sports catamaran followed by fine dining at Screaming Eagle. The journalists enjoyed the "in bed" dining experience complimented with a special menu prepared by the Chef.

Ready for another fun day in the sand, Friday morning the press tried the famous Dutch pancakes for breakfast at Linda's Pancake House. Yoga instructor Rachel Brathen then took the group out for a paddleboard yoga class in the Caribbean Sea. While some enjoyed spa treatments at Mandara Spa in the afternoon, others learned how to play beach tennis from Aruba's beach tennis pro's. In the evening Pinchos Grill & Bar hosted the press' farewell dinner.

The Aruba Marriott thanks Screaming Eagle, Pinchos, Linda's Pancake House, De Palm Tours, Red Sail Sports, Rachel Brathen, Vela and Aruba Beach Tennis for their cooperation and hospitality with the "Trade Snow to Sand" press trip.



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## Famed ballet star Leonid Kozlov has made "The Nutcracker" an annual holiday treat

*Continued from pg 1*



This year, they will again welcome Albert Davydov, principal dancer with the New Jersey Ballet to for a special New Year's Gala performance at the Occidental Grand Resort in Palm Beach on January 1.

He will be dancing a show-stopping pas de deux with young ballet sensation, Sofia Greenbaum. It is call "Diana and "Acteon Pas de Deux." He will also perform an exciting Russian "Gopak" filled with high flying leaps and jumps. The Occidental

show will consist of a varied program of classic ballet, folkloric dance, tango and a new work by Leonid Kozlov titled "Impulse," an intricate jazz on pointe number dance.

The production of "The Nutcracker" features stunning costumes and sets produced by Russian masters. This beautiful production will be performed at Aruba's Cas di Cultura on Saturday, December 29 at 8:00 PM and on Sunday, December 30 at 4:00 PM. Tickets are 35 Aruban florins, or \$20. Tickets are on sale at Cas di Cultura and Van Dorp Bookstores on Caya Milio Croes in Dakota, and also their branch outlets at the Divi Resort, Tamarijn Resort and Holiday Inn. The special New Year's Day performance is the same price, and tickets can be purchased at the concierge desk in the Occidental Grand Resort in Palm Beach. You can visit their website: [www.dancearuba.com](http://www.dancearuba.com) for additional information.

By Rosalie Klein

## Notice:

### Layoff Commission announces vacation schedule

The Director of the Department of Labour and Investigation receives advice from the Layoff Commission which deliberates the request for all work layoffs submitted to the Department of Labour and Investigation. The law requires all employers to submit a formal petition to layoff one or more employees.

The independent Layoff Commission consists of representatives of employers' organizations and representatives of the unions in accordance with Article 3 of the "Landsverordening Beeindiging Arbeidsrelatie" (Ordinance for the termination of a work relationship) in Aruban law.

The Department of Labour and Investigation hereby announces to all clients who may have a petition pending with the Layoff Commission that the Commission is about to leave for vacation as off December 13 through to January 15, 2013.

All petitions for the termi-

nation of a work relationship will remain in process. Cases which must be referred to the Layoff Commission and are pending the "legal objection" process, will have to accept a delay in the process because of the scheduled vacation of the Commission. In January 2013 all pending petitions will be forwarded to the Layoff Commission.



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Bortone wants to say  
*masha danki***

Aruba has always demonstrated that our people are very caring and kind to our visitors, especially the visitors whom have been coming to Aruba for many consecutive years and have become family to many Aruban citizens.

This is also the case of Mr. Pasquale and Mrs. Annette Bortone who have become like family to the staff and employees at the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Recently, Pasquale and Annette visited Aruba and were staying at their home away from home the Costa Linda Beach Resort, everything was great as always, nevertheless on this trip Mr. Bortone became very sick and needed medical assistance at the Hospital.

Mrs. Bortone commented that they treatment at the hospital was fantastic and she wants to share this with the

world. The nurses and doctors were very kind and helpful, but the best of all was the staff at the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Every day they received calls and visits at the hospital from the staff and friends and other members of the Resort whom were very concerned, and showed their love to this nice couple. Mrs. Bortone wants to thank everybody for their love and assistance to her, and her husband. A special thanks Miriam, Rossy, Richard and the whole staff and members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Mr. and Mrs. Bortone are already looking forward to their next visit to Aruba next year.

Aruba Tourism Authority also wants to send its gratitude to Mr. Pasquale and Mrs. Annette Bortone for their loyalty to Aruba and wishes Mr. Pasquale a speedy recovery.

**Madi's Magical Tours gets top ratings from Tripadvisor**

We are proud to applaud a good friend of THE MORNING NEWS, Madi Kock, for the commendation she received from TripAdvisor website for her consistent commitment to providing island visitors the best impression of Aruba possible.

Over 40 reviewers have given Madi's Magical Tours top marks for going above and beyond the norm in showcasing Aruba's out of the way sites, as well as her encyclopedic knowledge of local flora, fauna, folklore and fun.

Madi has been running her unique, very personal tours for a few years now, offering visitors not only trips to the usual spots, but real insight into island life, including meeting her Aruban family.

As the reviews on TripAdvisor indicate, they love the aspect of feeling like they are touring with friends; unhurried and without having to stick to a schedule. Many return year after year, enjoying the experience of introducing family and friends to their "Aruban family," Madi Kock, her husband, children mother and brother.

We are proud to have showcased Madi's tours and



bits of island wisdom in THE MORNING NEWS, and are not surprised in the least that she has received this high honor from TripAdvisor, rating a consistent 5 out of 5 stars from visitors who have

sampled her authentic Aruban hospitality. Anyone wishing to experience what all the fuss is about can call her at 746-1397 to arrange a tour.

Congratulations Madi on a job well done!

**ARUBA DOET: the largest volunteer event in Aruba - March 15th & 16th**

On March 15th and 16th, 2013, CEDE Aruba is organizing for the first time on Aruba, ARUBA DOET: the largest volunteer event on Aruba. The idea behind ARUBA DOET is for every Aruban citizen to lend a helping hand these specific two days, for at least a few hours, to improve the community.

Despite the fact that Aruba sees plenty of volunteer

work; many social organizations such as non-profit foundations, sports clubs, schools and care institutions have overdue jobs that require volunteer manpower to finalize. ARUBA DOET appeals to social organizations (job suppliers) and volunteers (job fillers) and brings these groups together. Prime Minister Mr. Mike Eman launched the countdown for

the ARUBA DOET event during a press conference. Only 98 days to go before Aruba can lend a helping hand to improve the community of Aruba.

**Job Suppliers**

Social organizations (such as non-profit foundations, sports clubs, schools and care institutions) can register the jobs at ARUBA DOET before January 31st, 2013.

Continue on pg 5



### Belize archeologist sues over Indiana Jones skull

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A Belize archeologist is suing the makers of a blockbuster "Indiana Jones" film for using a likeness of a so-called Crystal Skull, which he says is a stolen national treasure.

Dr. Jaime Awe claims the skull was stolen from Belize 88 years ago, and that filmmakers had no right to use a model of it in 2008's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," according to the Hollywood Reporter.

In a lawsuit filed in Illinois this week, Awe is demanding the return of the Crystal Skull, which he says is a national treasure, from a treasure-hunting family who allegedly stole it, said the industry journal Friday.

But the legal action also targets Lucasfilm, its new owner the Walt Disney Co. and Paramount Pictures which released the film by Steven Spielberg, for allegedly using a replica "likeness" of the skull.

Awe, head of the Institute of Archeology of Belize, claims that the skull was found by the daughter of an adventurer named F.A. Mitchell-Hedges under a collapsed altar in temple ruins in Belize, and taken to the US in 1930.

The family is said to have made money exhibiting the skull, described as 5 inches high, 7 inches long and 5 inches wide, which Awe says was used as a model for the Indiana Jones movie. "LucasFilm never sought, nor was given permission to utilize the Mitchell-Hedges Skull or its likeness in the film," says the lawsuit, a copy of which was published by the Hollywood Reporter.

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## ARUBA DOET: the largest volunteer event in Aruba ...

*Continued from pg 4*



The jobs to be finalized should require no more than one day or a half day of

work. Jobs that apply could be e.g. clean up a playground, organizing an out-

ing for the elderly, children or gifted people, painting a community center, etc. Job suppliers can register at our website [www.arubadoet.com](http://www.arubadoet.com) or at CEDE Aruba 582-7666 or email [cedearuba@setar-net.aw](mailto:cedearuba@setar-net.aw).

### Job Fillers

"Everyone can do chores" is the ARUBA DOET motto. Many jobs are easy and require little time to accomplish. And many hands make light work. ARUBA DOET is inviting everyone to donate

a few hours of their time on March 15th and 16th, 2013 to ARUBA DOET. Together with your family or friends, sport team, classmates, colleagues, it makes no difference. As long as you are there! The ARUBA DOET website contains a summary of all jobs that can be filled.

Companies can offer their support to ARUBA DOET in many ways. Perhaps by donating manpower, or offering their own employees, free products or discounts.

Another example is to donate paint, building materials or meals for the volunteers.

### CEDE Aruba

ARUBA DOET is organized by CEDE ARUBA in partnership with Oranje Fonds, which is the same foundation behind NL DOET in the Netherlands and BON DOET in Bonaire.

For more information, visit our website [www.arubadoet.com](http://www.arubadoet.com) or contact CEDE Aruba and ask for Mariëlle at 582-7666.



## International news

### US extends exemptions for Asian powers to Iran oil sanctions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States on Friday extended exemptions from sanctions designed to choke Iran's oil exports to nine major economic powers, including China, Taiwan, India and South Korea.

The Obama administration ruled that the economies concerned had taken steps to reduce imports of Iranian oil, so their financial institutions would not face measures under US law designed to punish Tehran's nuclear program.

The nine economies involved in the decision are those of China, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Taiwan.

They were granted exemptions to US sanctions legislation starting in June, and President Barack Obama is bound by law to reconfirm the exemptions every six months.

The administration styles the exemptions as a sign that its effort to build pressure and isolate Iran by throttling its petrochemical sector is working as part of tough diplomacy with other world powers on the nuclear issue.

"Iran's oil production fell by one million barrels per day in September and October 2012, compared to the same period in 2011," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a statement.

"This has reduced Iran's export volumes and oil revenues, which fund not only the nuclear program but its support for terror and destabilizing actions in the region."

"The message to the Iranian regime from the international community is clear: take concrete actions to satisfy the concerns of the international community through negotiations ... or face increasing isolation and pressure."

### Low-key start to second term for Obama



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama will begin his second term in low-key fashion, with a small private swearing-in ceremony on January 20 before he takes the oath of office before the eyes of the world the next day.

The double ceremony is necessary because the US Constitution states that presidential terms end at noon on January 20, but the pageantry of inauguration ceremonies traditionally are not held when that day falls on a Sunday.

Obama will then re-take the oath of office in the traditional spot, on a platform erected at the west front of the US Capitol Building, on Monday, January 21, on a day of parades and glittering inaugural balls.

It will not be the first time that Obama has had to undergo two separate swearing-in ceremonies.

In 2009, Chief Justice John Roberts stumbled over the

script of the oath when he swore Obama in at the Capitol, and was called to the White House to repeat the oath over what officials said was "an abundance of caution."

This year's events will likely lack the historic echoes of Obama's first inaugural, when more than two million people crowded onto the National Mall to watch him formally become America's first black president.

The committee said Obama would hold a national day of service before his inauguration, as he did in 2009, and would take part in events with his wife Michelle and cabinet members to honor civil rights icon Martin Luther King.

It also said that the four living former presidents -- George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush and Jimmy Carter -- would serve as honorary co-chairs of the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

### Ghana vote extended to Saturday over technical delays

ACCRA (AFP) - Voting in Ghana's presidential and parliamentary polls on Friday was extended to the following day due to delays linked to problems with a new biometric identification system, an electoral official said.

"Voting will continue tomorrow so that these people will have the opportunity to cast their ballots," electoral commission spokesman Christian Owusu-Parry said on local radio.

Asked who he was referring to, he said those affected by biometric machine breakdowns.

Further details were not immediately available, though the electoral commission was expected to issue a statement.

Ghana has been seeking to live up to its reputation as an example of stable democracy in turbulent West Africa in the tight election.

Voting went smoothly in many areas, but the new biometric system requiring electronic fingerprints from voters suffered a number of breakdowns in certain districts. Materials also arrived late in some areas, causing some polling stations to open behind schedule.

President John Dramani Mahama is vying for a first elected term against main opposition candidate Nana Akufo-Addo in a nation reaping the benefits of a booming economy fuelled in part by a new and expanding oil industry. The results are expected to be close.



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### Venezuela formally becomes full Mercosur member

BRASILIA (AFP) - Venezuela became a full member of Mercosur at a summit of the South American regional trading bloc Friday while Bolivia took a first step toward joining.

Host country Brazil hailed Venezuela's entry, which marked the group's first enlargement since Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay founded it in 1991.

But Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez did not attend. The firebrand leftist leader appeared in public for the first time in three weeks on Friday as he returned home from Cuba after his latest cancer-related medical treatment.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff hailed the decision by Bolivia, a Mercosur associate member along with Ecuador, to take the first step

toward full membership.

Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa said his country would decide early next year on whether to seek full membership amid concern about the impact integration might have on its dollar-based economy.

With the admission of Venezuela, which boasts the world's largest proven oil reserves, the bloc is now an energy and agricultural giant with a GDP of \$3.3 trillion (83 percent of that of South America) and a population of 275 million.

Bolivia and Ecuador would boost Mercosur's population to nearly 300 million.

Uruguayan President Jose Mujica meanwhile said the summit would mull whether to jumpstart stalled negotiations on a free trade agreement with the European Union.

### Benedict XVI gets vamped-up Mercedes popemobile

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Mercedes-Benz presented Pope Benedict XVI with a sleek, ecologically-friendly "popemobile" on Friday which has been vamped up with the latest gadgets for maximum comfort, the Vatican said.

The 85-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church was given two models of the new white Class M car -- which has bullet-proof windows and runs on unleaded petrol -- at a ceremony in the Vatican gardens.

Benedict will be taking one of them for a spin for the first time today, when he visits the square at the Spanish Steps in central Rome for a yearly ceremony celebrating the Immaculate Conception.

"It's a joy to be able to accompany Benedict XVI on his journeys. It's an important commitment which we carry out with passion," said Dieter Zetsche, chairman of Daimler



Pope Benedict XVI and Mercedes-Benz CEO Dieter Zetsche walk past the new popemobile

AG, the German company which produces the luxury Mercedes-Benz brand.

Popes have been using Mercedes cars for over 80 years, he said.

The new model has been lowered by a few centimetres to make it easier to transport by plane when Benedict travels abroad. The air-condition-

ing and lighting have also been improved in a bid to help the head of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics relax during long trips.

Mercedes has provided the special cars to successive popes since the 1980s, the high-sized, reinforced glass design allowing for maximum viewing with high levels of security.

The bullet-proof windows were added after Turkish assassin Mehmet Ali Agca shot and wounded pope Jean Paul II in 1981.

German-born Benedict is going to be pleased that the new model is ecologically-friendly.

Sometimes labelled "the green pope" in the Italian press, he has emphasised the defence of "God's works" and therefore the need to protect the environment.



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## International News

### NATO shares blame for 'insecurity' in Afghanistan: Karzai

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Thursday that NATO and the United States were partially to blame for insecurity in his country and threatened to suspend negotiations on a future role for US forces.

He also said that allegations of corruption against his government were ill-informed and that the United States was largely responsible for fueling graft in the impoverished country.

Karzai, who has long had a strained relationship with his American partners, alleged that the United States has failed to abide by an agreement to trans-

fer hundreds of detainees held at a prison in Bagram, north of Kabul, to Afghan control.

Karzai's frequent anti-American diatribes have irritated US officials, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta revealed Washington's exasperation with the Afghan leader in comments to reporters in October.

With the US-led war claiming the lives of more than 2,000 Americans, Panetta said it would be helpful if Karzai "every once in a while, expressed his thanks for the sacrifices that have been made by those who have fought and died for Afghanistan rather than criticize."

### Amsterdam to move problem neighbours to 'special units'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Amsterdammers guilty of "really unacceptable" behaviour towards their neighbours will from next year be removed from their homes and made to live together in special housing complexes, the city said on Friday.

"It happens that people are intimidated, persecuted by their neighbour and find themselves in such an unbearable situation that they decide to move," said Tahira Limon, spokeswoman for Amsterdam's Labour mayor Eberhard van der Laan.

"We feel that it is the people behind the intimidation who are really unacceptable, and not the victims who must leave their homes," she said.

Amsterdam has around seven cases of such extremely anti-social behaviour each year

from the 13,000 complaints that police receive.

The anti-social residents will be housed in shipping containers or caravans that will be placed in sparsely populated parts of town so that they can easily be monitored.

They will have to stay in the "cooling off" units for six months at most after which they can move into another "normal" home, but not in the neighbourhood they came from, said Limon.

"The aim of this project is to be able to reinsert people in society, not to isolate them for life," she said.

The so-called "reception centres" will consist of a maximum 10 housing units, Amsterdam city hall said in a document outlining the project and seen by AFP.

### Dutch to send Patriot missiles to Turkey-Syria border

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch cabinet on Friday gave the go-ahead to sending NATO Patriot missiles to Turkey to defend its border against Syria, along with a maximum 360 soldiers to operate them.

The deployment, which comes on the heels of a similar German move, will be initially for one year and the government said the surface-to-air missiles could not be used offensively.

"The aim of the Patriot deployment is not to enforce a no-fly zone or to carry out attacks," Prime Minister Mark Rutte told journalists after the weekly cabinet meeting.

### Belgium raises terror level

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Belgium on Friday raised its terror threat level to the second-highest ahead of the release of a new home-made film on the Internet next week criticising the Prophet Mohammed.

Interior Minister Joelle Milquet said the decision by a terror analysis and coordination unit was "a simple preventative measure," taking the level of threat up from two to three out of a maximum of four.

The decision was taken ahead of the release, planned for December 14, of "The Innocent Prophet" which an online trailer says is "from the point of view of an ex-Muslim".

The film is presented as the work of a man living in Spain called Imran Firasat and said to be inspired by "The Innocence of Muslims", a film released in September that triggered a wave of anti-US protests across the Middle East and blamed for more than 30 deaths.

The missiles will arrive in Turkey mid-January, Defence Minister Jeanine Hennis told Dutch news agency Novum.

The exact location for the missiles' deployment will be decided in talks with Turkey, the United States and Germany.

The government statement said a maximum of 360 soldiers would be sent to Turkey to operate the missiles.

NATO on Tuesday approved Turkey's request for Patriot missiles to defend its border against Syria following a series of blunt warnings to Damascus not to use chemical weapons.

The German government announced Thursday it had approved its participation, saying it would also send up to 400 troops. The move still needs to be approved by the German parliament.

NATO head Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the alliance's decision reflected a "steadfast commitment" to preserving the security of its 28 member states.

The alliance said that the Netherlands, Germany and the United States would provide the Patriot missile batteries, which would come under the command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

### Royal hoax DJs 'will not return' amid anger over nurse death



SYDNEY (AFP) - Two Australian radio presenters who duped a nurse at the hospital which treated Prince William's pregnant wife Catherine will not return to work "until further notice" as they faced growing public anger after the woman was found dead. Media reports Friday said nurse Jacintha Saldanha, who had worked at the King Edward VII hospital in London for four years, had committed suicide while police said they were treating the death as unexplained. Saldanha had accepted the hoax call from two radio presenters from Sydney's 2Day FM pretending to be Queen Elizabeth II and William's father Prince Charles, before passing it onto a colleague who divulged details of Kate's condition. The radio station said the presenters, Mel Greig and Michael Christian, "are both deeply shocked" over news of the nurse's death.



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## Food viruses can be spread by kitchen knives - scientists



PARIS (AFP) - People preparing food are advised to wash their hands to prevent the spread of disease, yet an unseen threat may well lie on their kitchen knife, a new study says.

Researchers at the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia used new knives and graters on six types of fruit and vegetables that had been smeared with minute doses of hepatitis A virus and a "vomiting" bug called norovirus.

More than half of the utensils became contaminated by this contact -- and in turn often handed on virus to non-contaminated produce.

The experiment was conducted on cucumbers, strawberries, tomatoes, carrots and cantaloupe and honeydew melons.

The type of knife, whether serrated, sharp or dull, did not

matter, according to the paper, published in the latest issue of the journal Food and Environmental Virology.

Co-author Marilyn Erickson recommended what to do, she acknowledged that it could be impractical to wash a knife or grater between each vegetable.

However, "it would be wise to wash (the utensil) carefully between meals rather than leaving it on the counter, thinking it's not that dirty," using a dishwasher or at dishwasher-type temperature, she said.

Previous research into contamination of kitchen utensils and surfaces has focussed on bacteria, not viruses.

A 2011 study found that the norovirus is the leading cause of foodborne illnesses in the United States. Ingesting as few as between one and 100 norovirus particles can cause vomiting or diarrhoea.

## Health & Living

### Darfur yellow fever outbreak worst in decades: WHO



KHARTOUM (AFP) - An outbreak of mosquito-borne yellow fever which has killed at least 165 people in Sudan's Darfur region is Africa's worst in decades, the World Health Organisation said.

Since September 2, there have been 732 suspected yellow fever cases in Darfur, including 165 deaths, said a separate report from WHO and Sudan's health ministry.

Outbreaks in other countries have been smaller because their routine vaccination programmes have started to include yellow fever, whereas Darfur had never had vaccinations for the virus until last month, Banerjee said.

That has left the population with no immunity.

"The outbreak is very significant and the spread of the disease shows no signs of stopping," UN humanitarian coordinator Ali al-Za'tari said.

He said there was an urgent

need for funds for more vaccine.

The death toll has now surpassed that of a 2005 yellow fever outbreak in Sudan's South Kordofan state which caused 163 deaths from 604 cases over about five months.

The yellow fever virus normally circulates among monkeys but could be linked to more mosquitoes breeding this year after heavy rains and flooding in the region.

Mosquitoes can become infected from the primates and transfer the virus to humans, Banerjee said, adding that the Darfur cases are concentrated among the region's nomads.

There is no specific treatment for the illness found in tropical regions of Africa and the Americas but it can be contained through the use of bed nets, insect repellents and long clothing.

Vaccination is the most important preventative measure.

### Dogs can sniff out lung cancer, pilot study shows

VIENNA (AFP) - Dogs are surprisingly adept at sniffing out lung cancer, results from a pilot project in Austria suggested, potentially offering hope for earlier, life-saving diagnosis.

"Dogs have no problem identifying tumour patients," said Peter Errhalt, head of the pulmonology department at Krems hospital in northern Austria, one of the authors of the study.

The test saw dogs achieve a 70-percent success rate identifying cancer from 120 breath samples, a result so "encouraging" that a two-year study 10 times larger will now take place, Errhalt said.

The results echo anecdotal evidence of odd canine behaviour when around cancer sufferers and are backed up by the results of similar small studies, including one by German scientists in 2011.

The ultimate aim is not however to have canines sta-

tioned in hospitals, but for scientists to identify what scents the dogs are detecting, explained Michael Mueller from the Otto Wagner Hospital in Vienna, who collaborated on the pilot project.

This in turn could help scientists reproduce in the long term a kind of "electronic nose" -- minus the wagging tail -- that could help diagnose lung cancer in the early stages, thereby dramatically improving survival rates, Mueller said.

### Nobel assembly says has never heard of US plaintiff

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - The assembly that awards the Nobel Medicine Prize said Friday it had never heard of a stem cell researcher who has filed a US lawsuit against it for allegedly crediting his work to this year's laureates.

Rongxiang Xu, a Los Angeles-based researcher who describes himself as the founder of "human body regenerative restoration science", claims he made a key discovery credited to the Nobel winners a decade before they did.

He filed a lawsuit in California this week against the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, which awarded this year's prize to Shinya Yamanaka of Japan and John Gurdon of Britain.

They were honoured for their work in cell programming, a research area that has nourished dreams of replacement tissue for people crippled by disease.

In awarding the prize, the Nobel jury said: "Their findings have revolutionised our understanding of how cells and organisms develop," and "created new opportunities to study diseases and develop methods for diagnosis and therapy."

Describing his lawsuit as a first against the Nobel Assembly, Rongxiang Xu said he discovered "regenerative" cells in 1984 while studying treatments that have benefited 20 million burn victims in 73 countries.

Alleging libel and unfair competition in the suit filed in Orange County, southern California, he claimed his good reputation was defamed by the assembly, which is made up of 50 professors at the Karolinska Institute.

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Daily \$3,- for all the Beers and Housedrinks 4pm-6pm***Sci-Tech****Chemical weapons watchdog cites 'serious concerns' over Syria**

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The world chemical weapons watchdog has asked Syria to sign up to a convention banning their use, expressing "serious concerns" that for the first time in the agreement's history they might be used.

The announcement by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) came amid speculation that Syria is considering using chemical weapons in its war with rebel forces.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said Friday that any such move would be an "outrageous

crime". On Monday, US President Barack Obama warned Assad of "consequences" if he used chemical weapons against his own people.

The Hague-based OPCW has in the past repeatedly asked Damascus to sign up to the convention, but to no avail.

Signatories of the convention grant the OPCW access to

a country's facilities, including verifying the destruction of chemical weapons that they might possess.

US officials said privately this week that the Syrian regime had begun mixing precursor chemicals that could be used for sarin, a lethal nerve agent. Some media reports said the substance had been loaded into bombs for warplanes.

The comments came amid fierce fighting on the outskirts of Damascus and growing fears in Western capitals that the increasingly desperate regime might decide to use some of its chemical arms.

Washington worries that battlefield advances by rebels could prompt Assad to use chemical weapons; or that such stocks could become insecure or find their way into the hands of groups hostile to the United States and its allies.

**Cuba charges 13 over pirate telephone networks**

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba has charged 13 people with fraud for operating two secret telephone networks that let people make cheaper calls and cheated the state-run monopoly, a newspaper said Friday.

The official daily Granma said the suspects will be tried for "illicit economic activity," which carries a maximum jail term of three years, and fraud, which can land them in prison for four to 10 years.

All are accused of using the state-owned telephone company Etecsa to make money.

One of the networks, linked to a telecommunications company owned by a Cuban living in Canada, used a computer

program and Etecsa's cell phone grid so that text messages sent to Cuba were charged at a lower rate, Granma said.

The other network operated with funds from a company owned by a Cuban resident of Spain. It rigged things so calls to Cuba from outside the island and using Etecsa's land-line grid showed up as domestic calls, the newspaper said.

Both Canada and Spain have significant and growing Cuban communities.

Both networks have been operating since 2009 and cost Etecsa three million dollars in lost revenue, Granma said.

**Tsunami hits Japan after 7.3-magnitude quake**

TOKYO (AFP) - A one-metre-high tsunami hit northeast Japan Friday after a powerful undersea quake struck off the coast, sending thousands fleeing to safety in a region that was devastated in last year's quake-tsunami disaster.

Broadcasters urged residents along the shoreline to remember the 2011 catastrophe and move to higher ground when the initial tremors rocked the region.

Telephone systems jammed up with the sheer volume of calls, complicating officials' efforts to evacuate exposed areas until the tsunami warning was lifted two hours later.

Meteorologists said the wave swept ashore just after 6

pm (0900 GMT) in Ishinomaki, a city badly hit by the 2011 quake-generated tsunami that wrecked a large swathe of coast, killing thousands.

There were no immediate reports of any fatalities following the quake, which had a magnitude of 7.3, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Several smaller tsunamis were also recorded.

The 7.3 quake struck 36 kilometres (23 miles) under the Pacific, the US Geological Survey said, with an epicentre 284 kilometres (176 miles) east of Sendai.

It was followed by a 6.2 aftershock and another tremor measuring 5.5.

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## COMICS

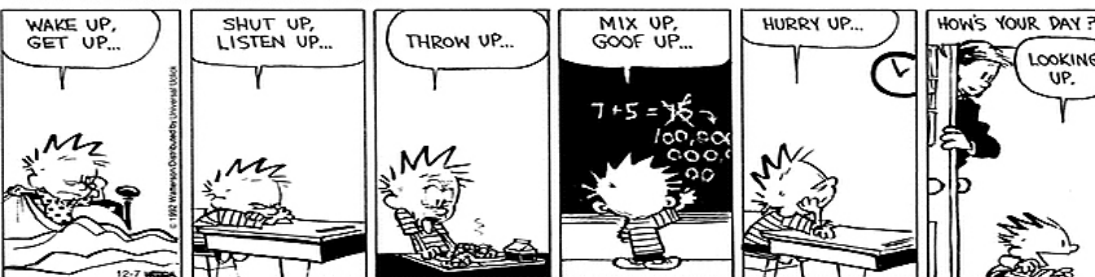
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## WHAT A PUSHOVER

## ACROSS

1. Warn
6. Rock projection
10. Organ of equilibrium
13. Lily
14. Alan of "Gilligan's Island"
15. She, in Paris
16. Post of fame
17. Baking compartment
18. Verdi's last grand opera
19. Song from "Annie"
21. Arthur Murray lesson
22. SAT taker
23. Cake tiers
25. Constraint
29. Ice mass, for short
30. Territory
31. Turnpike regular
34. Like neon and argon, among gases
38. Parsonage
40. Snapper
41. Silenced the squeak
42. Stratagems
43. Newsy bit
45. Stocking shade
46. "Softly, \_\_\_ a Morning Sunrise"
48. Sea off of Greece
50. Put a halt to
53. Constituent
55. Jute fiber
56. La-Z-Boys, e.g.
62. Kirghiz range
63. Japanese isinglass
64. Agra's country
65. "\_\_\_ Noire"

(Shostakovich ballet)

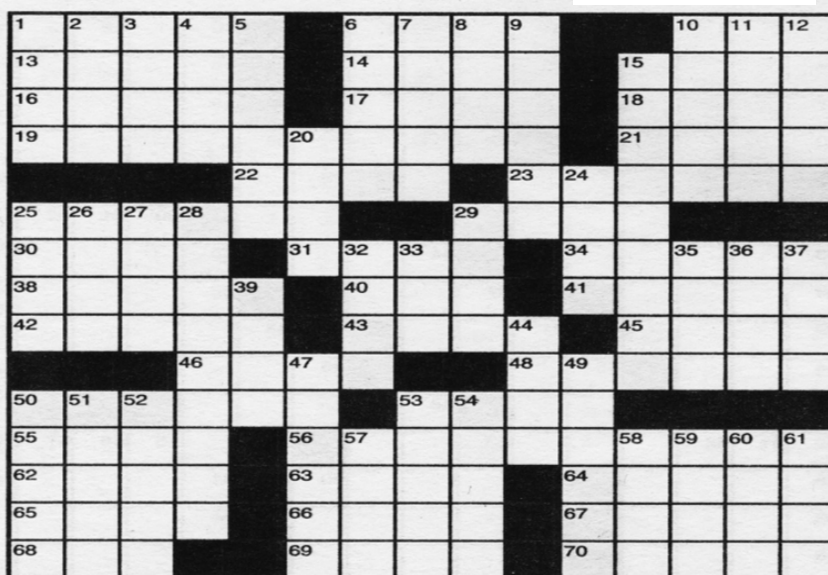
66. After tall or tell
67. Spade...
68. Assam silkworm
69. Shade trees
70. "Rawhide" creature

## DOWN

1. Suit to
2. Bean town?
3. Shield of Zeus
4. Lean (on)
5. Assignations
6. Detractor
7. First flier off Noah's Ark
8. To shelter, asea
9. Soft
10. The silver

11. Nobelist chemist Kurt
12. Gets the benefits
15. Happy-go-lucky
20. Hardy's Miss Durbeyfield
24. Italian river
25. Dank
26. Caspian Sea feeder
27. First woman Attorney General
28. Simple
29. Tarry
32. Joyce's native land
33. Had a session
35. Sky, baby, or navy
36. Clytemnestra's mother

37. English novelist Phillpotts
39. Being, to Brutus
44. Grape refuse
47. Think
49. Philosophy department course
50. Rub the wrong way
51. Lance lancer
52. Fine fiddle
53. Hymn
54. Kildare portrayer
57. "I've Got \_\_\_ in Kalamazoo"
58. Gray's subj.
59. Unemployed
60. Peeve
61. German river



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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Care Center  
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Telephone  
Numbers

## HOSPITAL

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Telephone 100

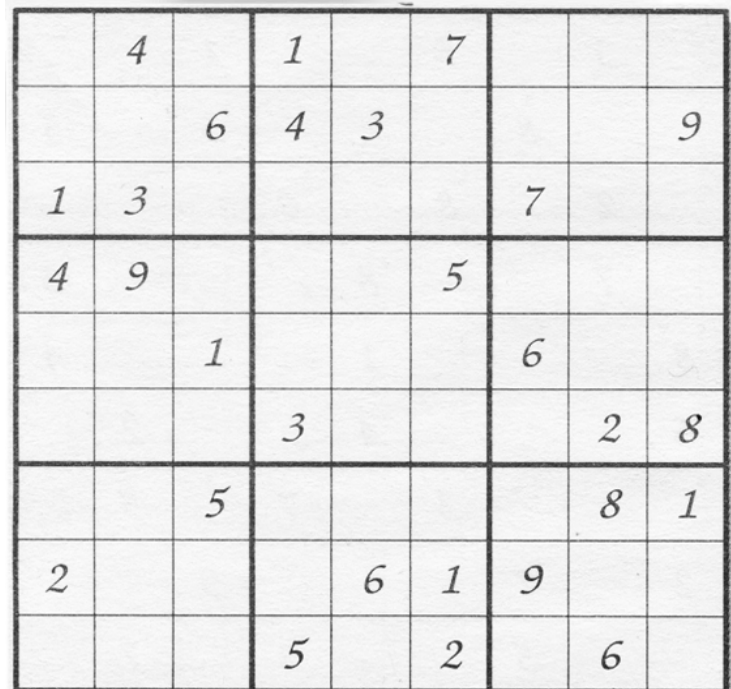
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## Sudoku



**SOLUTION**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 5 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 12/06/2012

|                | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| U.S.A.         | USD           | 1.77                  | 1.78           | 1.80         |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG           | 98.00                 | 100.00         | 100.20       |
| Canada         | CAD           | 1.77                  | 1.79           | 1.81         |
| Britain        | GBP           | 2.80                  | 2.85           | 2.90         |
| Switzerland    | CHF           | 191.71                | 192.43         | 191.67       |
| Netherlands    | EUR           | 230.59                | 232.69         | 232.15       |
| Sweden         | SEK           | 25.91                 | 26.63          | 27.20        |
| Denmark        | DKK           | 30.23                 | 30.95          | 31.37        |
| Norway         | NOK           | 30.67                 | 31.39          | 31.91        |
| Japan          | JPY           | 214.88                | 216.84         | 218.62       |

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

## Italian tax police raid Facebook offices

ROME (AFP) - Italian police on Friday raided the Milan offices of US social media giant Facebook over possible violations of tax laws, Italian media reported.

Facebook Italia is based in Milan and is associated with Facebook Inc. in the United States and Facebook Ireland.

"Facebook pays taxes in Italy as part of its activity in the country and takes its obligations in terms of Italian tax law very seriously," the company said in a statement.

The Italian-registered company, according to its official document, has social capital of 10,000 euros (\$13,000) and 11 employees and therefore pays very low taxes, Italian media reported.

Facebook Italia had gross revenues of 2.0 million euros in 2011, which counted as "services" for promotion on the Italian market.

A probe by Italian tax police against Google Italy last month found that the company failed to declare income of 240 million euros (\$310 million) and pay value added tax of 96 million euros.

## Germany faces temporary economic slowdown: Bundesbank

FRANKFURT (AFP) - The German economy, Europe's biggest, will not be able to escape the crisis and may even flirt briefly with recession early next year, but is well placed to rebound strongly, the Bundesbank said Friday.

The German central bank, in its latest updated twice-yearly forecasts, said there were "indications that economic activity may actually fall in the final quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2013."

Recession is technically defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth and many of Germany's eurozone neighbours have been pushed into recession, in some cases deep, by the region's long-running debt crisis.

Although Germany has managed to hold up to the crisis fairly well, growth has slowed here as well since the

beginning of the year.

Taking this year and next year as a whole, GDP would expand by 0.7 percent in 2012 and then by just 0.4 percent in 2013, the Bundesbank predicted.

That represents a marked downward revision from the central bank's previous forecasts in June, when it had been pencilling in growth of 1.0 percent for 2012 and 1.6 percent for 2013.

In its regular quarterly staff economic projections, the ECB forecast that the eurozone economy will contract both this year and next year and only return to growth in 2014.

ECB chief Mario Draghi argued that the central bank's policy of low interest rates -- it held them at their historical low of 0.75 percent on Thursday -- would help fuel recovery.

## Finance

# Oil slips amid concerns about demand for crude

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices slipped Friday as a dip in the US unemployment rate failed to allay skepticism about economic recovery in the United States and Europe and the strength of crude demand.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate for delivery in January, finished at \$85.93 a barrel, down 33 cents from Thursday's closing level.

In London trade, Brent North Sea crude for January fell one cent to \$107.02

Oil prices were up initially following the release of US government data showing a surprise fall in the nation's unemployment rate to 7.7 percent in November, its lowest level since December 2008.

"Of course the job report this morning was better than expected," said independent analyst Andy Lipow.

However, he added, there was some amount of skepticism about the impact of Superstorm Sandy, which hit the East Coast in late October and early November. In releasing its statistics, the Labor Department said the hurricane "did not substantively impact" the data.

"Other than that, there (is) still concern with some of the economic news that came out of Europe, notably regarding growth in Germany," he added.

Also dulling the economic outlook was the release of the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index, which declined to 74.5 from November's 82.7 -- the best level in five years.

The data is crucial for the oil market because the United States is the world's largest consumer of crude.

Market sentiment was also dampened somewhat after Germany's Bundesbank warned that the eurozone powerhouse could sink into recession early next year, but was well placed to rebound strongly.

The German central bank, in its latest updated twice-yearly forecasts, said there were "indications that economic activity may actually fall in the final quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2013."

## Top Republican warns 'no progress' yet on fiscal cliff talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - House Speaker John Boehner said Friday there was "no progress" in deficit talks and accused the White House of recklessly pushing the country to the fiscal brink over tax hikes.

"This isn't a progress report because there is no progress to report," said Boehner, the main Republican in negotiations with President Barack Obama on looming tax hikes and spending cuts that could push the country into recession.

"When it comes to the fiscal cliff that's threatening our economy and threatening jobs, the White House has wasted another week."

Obama sent Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to Capitol Hill last week with an opening gambit, proposing \$1.6 trillion in new tax revenues over the next decade, mainly from higher tax rates on the wealthiest two percent of Americans.

A Republican counter-offer included a plan for \$800 billion in tax revenue raised through closing loopholes and ending some deductions. Both plans have been rejected.

Geithner raised eyebrows Wednesday when he said the

Obama administration was "absolutely" ready for the economy to tumble over the fiscal cliff if a deficit-reduction deal did not include higher tax rates for the wealthy.

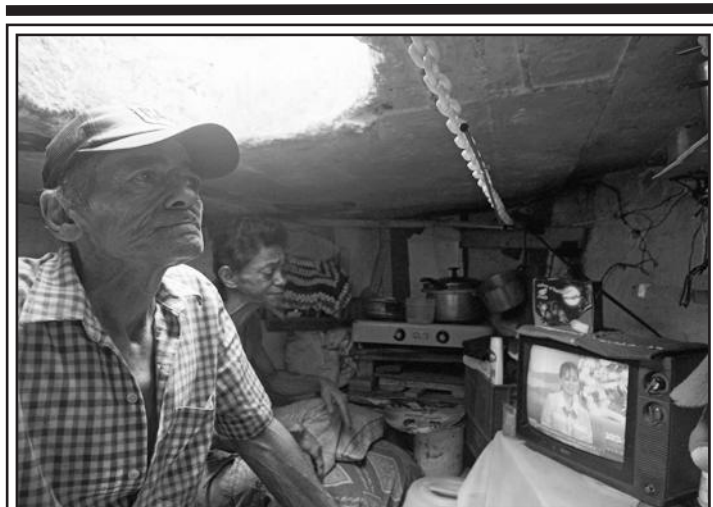
Boehner on Friday described such comments as "reckless talk."

"I came out the day after the election to put revenues on the table, take a step towards the president, to try to resolve this. When is he going to take a step towards us?"

The top Republican in Congress suggested there might be wiggle room in the negotiations, which must thrash out a deal by year end or have taxes rise by what the White House says is about \$2,200 per US household.

The top rate is due to rise from 35 percent to 39.6 percent if Bush-era tax cuts expire four weeks from now.

Boehner did not reject outright a query about whether he envisioned a potential compromise that would see the rate rise to a compromise of 37 percent while somehow protecting small businesses, a group which Republicans have long claimed can ill afford higher taxes.



**MEDELLIN (AFP) :** Colombian Miguel Restrepo (L), and his wife Maria Garcia look on inside the sewer where they live on December 4, 2012, in Medellin, Antioquia department, Colombia. Restrepo, 62, is a homeless man who has lived with his wife for more than twenty years in a sewer, near Medellin's downtown. The place is around three by two by 1.4 meters of height and has a stove, a television, a bed and a fan.

## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | L | A | M | A | L | E | D | I | M | S |   |   |   |
| O | L | I | N | I | M | E | T | A | U | D | I | T |   |   |
| M | I | N | N | E | S | O | T | A | C | L | O | N | E |   |
| A | V | E | A | U | N | T | F | A | L | L | E | N |   |   |
| S | E | D | E | R | S | S | P | I | C | E |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | S | T | E | M | R | A | I | D | E | R | S |
| N | O | R | T | H | D | A | K | O | T | A | M | O | E |   |
| A | R | E | S |   | N | I | B |   | O | M | A | N |   |   |
| R | E | A |   | R | H | O | D | E | I | S | L | A | N | D |
| C | O | R | S | A | I | R | S | N | U | G |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | A | N | E | S |   | C | E | A | S | E | S |
| C | L | A | N | G | S |   | H | O | E | D |   | U | R | N |
| H | O | R | D | E |   | T | E | N | N | E | S | S | E | E |
| A | N | E | A | R |   | O | R | E | S |   | P | A | C | E |
| R | E | A | L |   |   | M | E | R | E |   | A | N | T | S |



# Wow, have you seen the line-up of artists at upcoming Cas di Glas?



Michael Lampe - Datapanik



Biggie Boy



Hot Ones Band

--Yes, you are in for a treat! At upcoming Cas di Glas, a fundraising event at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, a varied schedule is sure to delight you. Super artists, some local, some international, are going to perform free of charge for this year's good cause, which is Wit Gele Kruis Aruba. WGK has a great project in mind for the elderly, so please donate your money and help raise funds to support the island's 'grand-inan'.

So who is coming? We'll just give you some names: Levi Silvanie, Hot Ones Band, Datapanik, DJ Fellow, Jasper Taconis, Junior Tecla,

Freek Bartels, Manuela van Geenhoven, Carolina Dijkhuizen and Biggie Boy. These artists are awesome, each in their own way. Expect hip-hop to make room for musical songs, r&b for classical music, reggae for pop and enjoy!

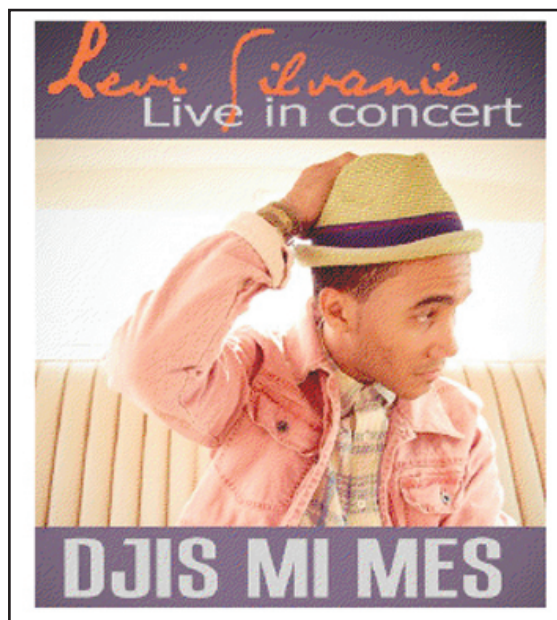
**Cas di Glas is held from December 12 – 16 at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall.** Three deejays will be locked up in the House of Glass; during those days they are going to try and raise as much money as they can for the charity of this year's event. A beach tennis court will be laid out and free clinics, a competition and a tour-



Manuela van Geenhoven



Junior Tecla



Levi Silvanie



Jasper Taconis

nament will see great action in the sand. Cas di Glas starts off with a playful caminata: Flora's Santa Claus Caminata, a 5 K walk in Santa Claus suits.

Register for this walk at Idrefre or at Flora; participation (and suit) costs AWG. 25,--. The entire amount goes to Wit Gele Kruis Aruba.

*Keep your eyes peeled for the schedule of performances at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall – and be there!*



**HAVANA - Cubans participate in a Mayan ritual at Bacuranao beach in eastern Havana, on December 6, 2012. Mayan leaders are in Cuba delivering conferences and making ceremonies to celebrate the beginning of a new era**



## Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-"Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena -"Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



## SPORTS

## Euroleague basketball :



ATHENS (AFP) : Fenerbahce Ulker's Sto Romain (L) tries to score in front of Panathinaikos Athens' Bramos Michael (R) during their Euroleague basketball match in Athens yesterday .

## NBA: Knicks down Heat with long-range barrage



MIAMI (AFP) - Guard Raymond Felton made six of New York's 18 three-pointers Thursday as the Knicks used a long-range barrage to hand the Miami Heat their first home loss of the NBA season, 112-92.

Reigning NBA champions Miami had won their first

eight home games of the season, and this defeat came despite 31 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists from Heat superstar LeBron James.

Felton led the Knicks with 27 points. Steve Novak scored 18 points -- nailing four three-pointers -- and J.R. Smith and Jason Kidd both connected on three from beyond the arc for the Knicks, who won their fifth straight game despite the absence of Carmelo Anthony.

Anthony sat out after having stitches to close a laceration on the middle finger of his left hand which he suffered late in a victory over Charlotte on Wednesday.

He warmed up before the game, but the Knicks announced shortly before tip-off that he wouldn't play.

The Heat just couldn't take advantage. Dwyane Wade endured a 3-for-13 night from the floor, contributing 13 points, while Heat center Chris Bosh made just 3-of-12 from the floor and scored 12.

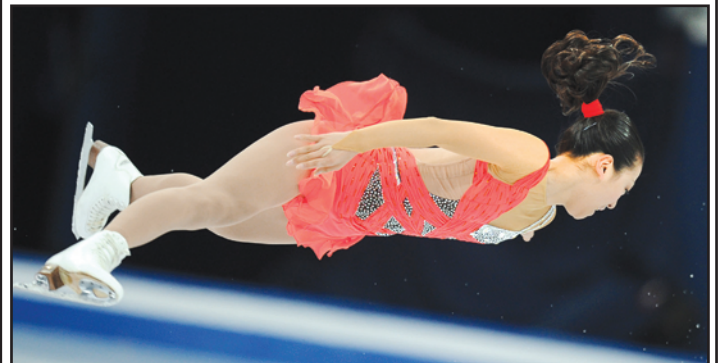
The contest was tied at half-time, but the Knicks connected on eight of their 13 three-point attempts in the third period to seize control.

The Knicks solidified their hold on the top spot in the Eastern Conference, while the Heat suffered their second straight defeat after a shocking loss to the league-worst Wizards in Washington on Tuesday.

The teams entered the game with the top two records in the Eastern Conference, the Knicks at 13-4 and the Heat at 12-4.

Now at 14-4, the Knicks are off to their best start since the 1995-96 season and have beaten the Heat twice. They routed Miami by 20 points in New York in their season-opener.

## Figure skating: Takahashi, Asada put Japan top at GP finals



SOCHI, Russia (AFP) - Former world champions Daisuke Takahashi and Mao Asada put Japan top after the opening day of the ISU Grand Prix figure skating series finals being staged in 2014 Winter Olympics host city Sochi on Friday. Olympic men's bronze medallist Takahashi, 26, outshone two-time reigning world champion Patrick Chan with an error-free rock'n'roll medley on the ice of the new 12,000-seater Iceberg arena in the Black Sea resort city. Earlier former two-time world champion Asada grabbed the women's lead with her flawless "I Got Rhythm" routine earning 66.96 points.



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## Boxing: Pacquiao seeks definitive win to silence Marquez

LAS VEGAS (AFP) - Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao needs a statement victory over Juan Manuel Marquez in the fourth installment of their epic rivalry today to prove once and for all who is the better fighter.

Pacquiao, 33, will face the 39-year-old Marquez for the fourth time in eight years in a 12-round non-title welter-weight fight at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

Trainer Freddie Roach said he has seen a meaner, harder-punching Pacquiao in their sparring sessions at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

"I think he has the fire underneath him that he used to have," Roach said. "He has four knockdowns in training



camp ... He wasn't so compassionate in sparring this time."

Pacquiao, who is also eager to redeem himself after suffering a defeat in his most recent fight to Tim Bradley, is tired of Marquez blaming his failure to win in their series on biased judging.

Marquez claims he won all three fights -- although two were scored in favour of Pacquiao and one ended in a draw.

Pacquiao and Marquez, of Mexico, have fought a total of 36 rounds with their most recent fight being 13 months ago.

They met for the first time in 2004 for the featherweight title. Marquez survived three early knockdowns to scrape out a draw.

Fast forward four years and they would meet again at 130 pounds. Pacquiao was awarded a split decision by the narrowest of margins as one judge gave the victory to Marquez, the second favoured Pacquiao and the third gave it to Pacquiao by just one point.

In November 2011, Pacquiao won on a majority decision that was roundly booed when it was announced. An incensed Marquez stormed out of the ring thinking he had won the fight.

Pacquiao sees this fight as a chance to provide definitive

proof as to who is the better fighter. He also wants to avoid suffering back-to-back losses for the first time in his 17-year career.

## UFC Preview: Henderson - Diaz



Henderson [17-2] is unbeaten in the UFC so far, and vows to stay so. That's impressive. Sure, fans may know he's not fireworks on legs, with most of his victories coming the way of decisions, but an undefeated record always counts for something in the UFC and it will count when Henderson stares across the Octagon at Diaz. Diaz, winner of The Ultimate Fighter 5, might be a career 16-7 and a very unsavory 11-5 in the UFC but there is an ever growing chorus cheering Diaz's chances against Henderson.

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## NFL: Denver Broncos cruise past Oakland Raiders



**Darius Heyward-Bey #85 of the Oakland Raiders gets tackled by D.J. Williams #55 of the Denver Broncos as Jim Leonhard #36 looks on**

OAKLAND (AFP) - The Denver Broncos, their AFC West division title secure, defeated Oakland 26-13 on Thursday to notch their eighth straight NFL victory and edge toward a possible first-round playoff bye.

Peyton Manning joined Brett Favre as the only NFL quarterbacks with 5,000 career pass completions, throwing for 310 yards and a touchdown.

The resurgent NFL veteran, in his first season in Denver, completed 26-of-36 passes as the Broncos improved to 10-3. Their eight-game winning streak is the club's longest since the 1998 Broncos opened the season 13-0.

Knowshon Moreno ran for 119 yards and a score and Eric Decker recorded eight receptions in the win.

The Broncos moved a half-game ahead of New England and Baltimore for the second-best record in the American Football Conference, behind Houston.

Houston visit New England on Monday night, while injury-hit Baltimore, who own a two-game lead atop the AFC North division, open a daunting final four games against Washington and the Redskins' rookie quarterback sensation Robert Griffin III on Sunday.

Already without defensive veteran Ray Lewis, who re-

turned to the practice field this week but won't be fit for game action until December 16, the Ravens will also be missing linebacker Terrell Suggs, who tore his right biceps Sunday.

Baltimore could clinch a playoff berth with a win this weekend, but only if Pittsburgh or Cincinnati lose.

The Steelers got some good news Thursday, as coach Mike Tomlin announced that quarterback Ben Roethlisberger will start against the San Diego Chargers. "Big Ben" missed three games with rib and shoulder injuries.

Cincinnati, trying to earn back-to-back playoff appearances for the first time in 30 years, host a Dallas Cowboys team that remains in the hunt for a wild card berth.

NFC West division leaders San Francisco will try to bounce back from an overtime loss to St. Louis when they host the struggling Miami Dolphins.

Seattle, second in the NFC West, will try to

stay in touch when they host Arizona.

Green Bay, who regained a narrow lead atop the NFC North with a win over Minnesota last week along with a Chicago defeat, host a Detroit Lions team that haven't won at the Packers' Lambeau Field since 1991.

The Bears, meanwhile, visit Minnesota.

New Orleans host the reigning Super Bowl champion New York Giants, who will be trying to bounce back from a loss on Monday to NFC East division rivals Washington.

The Atlanta Falcons, already assured of the NFC South division title, continue their quest for the best record in the NFC when they visit the Carolina Panthers.

In other games, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will try to rebound from back-to-back defeats when they host fading Philadelphia, Buffalo host St. Louis, rookie quarterback Andrew Luck and his Indianapolis Colts host the Tennessee Titans and the New York Jets visit Jacksonville with Mark Sanchez reinstated as starting quarterback after being benched against Arizona last week.



**Antrel Rolle #26 of the New York Giants dives onto running back Alfred Morris #46 of the Washington Redskins after Morris rushed for a first down during the closing moments of the Redskins 17-16 win at FedExField on Monday**

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